

Citizens' campaign successful: EU Mobile roaming charges fall on July 1 for immediate release

- Prices for mobile phone use lowered again, thanks to successful citizens' campaign -

Checking your e-mails, surfing the web and making calls while on holiday will once again become cheaper this summer. On July 1, the EU will once again act against high roaming charges and will set new cap prices for calls, SMS and internet use on the mobile. This is a success for the 150000-strong campaign "Europeans for Fair Roaming" that brought down prices much more than originally planned.

According to the EU law, prices for using mobiles phones abroad will be lowered to 24ct/min for calls and 45ct/MB for internet access in July 2013 and will keep going down to 19ct/min for calls and 20ct/MB for internet access by 2014. In addition, users will be allowed to choose a different operator for roaming from next year on, which is expected to bring about more competition. Most operators are already starting to offer roaming packages for travellers in reaction to the new law.

The citizen-led campaign "Europeans for Fair Roaming" (FairRoaming.org) sees this as a success for their work. Since 2010, the group lobbied for further lowering of roaming charges and managed to unite 20 associations, 14 Members of the European Parliament and 150000 people behind this goal. Thanks to those efforts, FairRoaming.org managed to halve the prices for internet roaming, compared to the original EU proposals. Just like the European Citizens' Initiative against water privatisation or the campaigns against ACTA, this shows a trend of growing influence of citizens on European politics.

The coordinator of the FairRoaming.org campaign, Bengt Beier, said: "*Since 2010, we managed to show European politicians that mobile phone users demand an end to unfair roaming prices. And the EU listened to our concerns. The EU Commission originally proposed prices of 50ct per MB in 2014. Together with the European Parliament, we managed to get them down to 20ct per MB! This shows that determined citizens can really have a strong influence on European politics.*"

Media information: Bengt Beier, campaign coordinator of Europeans for Fair Roaming is available for further comments. Please contact Bengt Beier at roaming@europeunited.eu or +43-650-5154370.

"Europeans for Fair Roaming" (www.fairroaming.org) was started by citizens from all over Europe as a Facebook campaign and has since expanded to a network representing tens of thousands of concerned Europeans. The network calls on the EU to end the unfair practice of mobile phone operators charging high roaming fees for using mobile phones in other EU states. Since 2010, Europeans for Fair Roaming works to improve the EU roaming regulation and build a borderless European market for telecommunications.

The current state of the campaign is:

- A network of 20 organisations representing/reaching over 150000 people
- Supported by 14 Members of the European Parliament
- Regular participation in conferences & discussions
- Petitions with several thousand signatures
- Constant communication with key players
- Mentioned in TV news, NY Times, Newsweek, TheParliament.com, EurActiv and other media.

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at +49-1577-2951797 or +43-650-5154370.